

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5499

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

CINC EUR VAHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 00253

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, MASS, GR, TU, GW

SUBJECT: UPCOMING FRG MILITARY ASSISTANCE

NEGOTIATIONS WITH GREECE AND TURKEY

REFS: (A) BONN 20852 DTG 301701Z DEC 75 (NOTAL)

(B) ANKARA 0046 DTG 051422Z JAN 76

(C) BONN 12935 DTG 111713Z AUG 75

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE FRG WILL HOLD TALKS WITH THE GREEKS AND TURKS BEGINNING IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY RESPECTIVELY TO DISCUSS NEW MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS FOR 1976. NEITHER THE GOG NOR THE GOT HAS YET INDICATED OFFICIALLY WHAT THEY PLAN TO ASK FOR IN THEIR SHOPPING LISTS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE FOREIGN OFFICE NATO DESK OFFICIAL WHO HOPES TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FRG DELEGATION SCHEDULED TO VISIT ATHENS AT THE END OF JANUARY FOR BILATERAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE TALKS ADVISED US ON JANUARY 6 THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HAD ASSURED PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS
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THAT THE FRG WOULD DEFINITELY OFFER SUCH ASSISTANCE.

(SEE PARA 2, REF A FOR SOME DETAILS).

2. THE FOURTH TRANCHE AGREEMENT WHICH THE GREEKS WILL SEEK WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO BE A SMALLER AMOUNT THAN THE FRG PROVIDES TO THE TURKS. HISTORICALLY, THE RATIO OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED HAS BEEN THREE TO TWO IN FAVOR OF THE TURKS. WHILE IT IS EXPECTED THAT THIS RATIO WILL BE MAINTAINED, THE FINAL DECISION FOR THE ACTUAL APPROPRIATION RESTS WITH THE BUNDESTAG. MOREOVER, SINCE THE FRG HAS EMPHASIZED ITS BALANCED POLICY VIS-A-VIS GREECE AND TURKEY, THE GERMANS MAY HAVE TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING ON THE AMOUNT OF AID OFFERED THE GREEKS.

3. WE BELIEVE THE PRESS REPORTS DESCRIBED IN REF B ARE SOMEWHAT LESS THAN CANDID. THE TURKISH-FRG MILITARY AGREEMENT SIGNED AUGUST 11, 1975 DID NOT INVOLVE LEOPARD TANKS, AIR DEFENSE MISSILES OR ALPHA JETS. RATHER, AS REPORTED REF C, THAT AGREEMENT CONCERNED THE DELIVERY OF SURPLUS MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND DID NOT CONTAIN ANY MAJOR ARMAMENTS. THE TURKS ARE NOT CURRENTLY RECEIVING ANY MAJOR ARMAMENTS FROM THE FRG, BUT IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT THE PRESS REPORT MAY BE AN INDICATION OF WHAT THE TURKS PLAN TO REQUEST FROM THE GERMANS WHEN BILATERAL TALKS ARE HELD IN FEBRUARY. SHOULD THE TURKS ASK FOR THE FRG'S MOST SOPHISTICATED MILITARY EQUIPMENT, BONN MAY HAVE A PROBLEM DECIDING WHETHER TO AGREE TO SUCH A REQUEST IN VIEW OF THE CONTINUING TENSION OVER CYPRUS.

4. WE WOULD NOTE THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED PARA 3, REF B REGARDING THE SIZE OF THE NINTH TRANCHE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AN ASSUMPTION ONLY. THE FINAL DECISION ON THE SIZE OF THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PACKAGE DEPENDS UPON BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS. SINCE FOUR OF THE EIGHT PREVIOUS AGREEMENTS WITH THE TURKS HAVE BEEN FOR DM 100 MILLION, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT THIS AMOUNT MAY ONCE AGAIN FIGURE PROMINENTLY IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. ALSO, WITH REGARD TO THE AMOUNT DEVOTED TO PROVIDING NEW AND SURPLUS EQUIPMENT RESPECTIVELY (80/20), WE WOULD

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POINT OUT THAT THIS RATIO TOO SHOULD BE CONSIDERED OPEN SINCE THERE IS A PRECEDENT IN PAST AGREEMENTS FOR A RATIO OF 50/50.
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